

Claims

1. A telephone network comprising a telephone switching centre coupled to a subscriber line and being responsive to an attempt to establish or terminate a call
5 connection via the subscriber line to selectively either:
 notify an enhanced service processing apparatus of that attempt,
or
 establish or terminate said call connection without such notification;
said selection being based on the previous occurrence of a predetermined event
10 associated with the subscriber line, the enhanced service processing apparatus
being responsive to such notification to send switching control commands to the
telephone switching centre.
2. A network according to claim 1, wherein the switching centre includes
15 processing means including flag means, the processing means being responsive to
notification of said predetermined event to change the state of said flag means
and, in the event of an attempt to establish or terminate a call connection via said
subscriber line, to determine, in dependence on the state of the flag means,
whether to notify the enhanced service processing apparatus of the attempt.
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3. A network according to claim 1 or 2, including event detecting means for
detecting a predetermined event and notifying the switching centre of an
occurrence of said event.
- 25 4. A network according to claim 2, wherein the processing means includes a
plurality of flag means associated with respective predetermined events, the
processing means being responsive to notification of one of said predetermined
events to change the state of the associated flag means and, in the event of an
attempt to establish or terminate a call connection via said subscriber line to
30 select, in dependence on the states of the flag means together with the flag
means state information, whether to notify the enhanced service processing
apparatus of the attempt, and to perform such notification if so selected.

5. A network according to claim 4, wherein the enhanced service processing apparatus generates said switching control commands in dependence on said flag state information.

5 6. A network according to claim 3, 4 or 5, wherein the event detecting means comprises a voice mail system, the event or one of the events comprises storing of voice mail for the subscriber of said subscriber line.

7. A network according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein the event
10 detecting means comprises a call charging system and the event or one of the events comprises the call charge for the subscriber of said subscriber line exceeding a threshold value.

8 A method of processing calls in a telephone network comprising:-
15 recording the occurrences of one or more predetermined events at a telephone switching centre, said events being associated with a subscriber line connected to the switching centre;
detecting attempts to establish or terminate calls via the subscriber line;
determining whether a record of the occurrence of one or more of said
20 predetermined events exists at the switching centre; and

if it is determined that a record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events exists at the switching centre:-

25 notifying an enhanced service processing apparatus of the attempt;
generating switching control commands at the enhanced service processing apparatus; and
communicating said commands to the switching centre to control the establishment or termination of said call; but

30 if it is determined that no record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events currently exists at the switching centre:-
establishing or terminating the call using only the switching functions of the switching centre.

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9. A method according to claim 8, wherein said event comprises storing of voice mail.

5 10. A method according to claim 8, wherein said event comprises the exceeding of a threshold value by a cumulative parameter relating to usage of the telephone system.

10 11. A method according to any of claims 8, 9 or 10, wherein the recording of the occurrence of one or more of the said events takes the form of erasure or cancellation of the recording of another of the said events having occurred previously, such that the enhanced service processing apparatus is not then notified of further call attempts until a further occurrence of the said previously-occurring event.

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